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Regional cooperation

Revised draft resolution submitted by Belgium, France, Morocco and Spain

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997 and 1999/37 of 28 July 1999,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe[1] regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

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[1] See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, *Texts adopted by the Assembly*, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held in Barcelona in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their inter-operability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held in Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Conference, held in Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa,[2] in accordance with resolution 1999/37,

Also taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held respectively in Rabat in September 1995 and in Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the study on transport infrastructure in the western Mediterranean, which included the permanent link among the priority corridors in the extension of the trans-European network,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar established between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the organization by the International Tunnelling Association, under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, of the seminar held in Rabat in April 1999 on the modelling of tunnel costs;

3. *Further welcomes* the progress achieved with project studies, especially the deep-sea drilling work, which has provided a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical knowledge of undersea formations;

4. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report[2] requested by the Council in its resolution 1999/37;

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[2] E/2001/19, annex.

5. *Renews its invitation* to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to non-governmental organizations, in particular the International Tunnelling Association and the International Union of Railways, to participate in the studies and work on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

6. *Also renews its invitation* to the European Commission to consider the possibility of participating in the consolidation of the studies and the development of the project, both institutionally and financially, within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Transport Cooperation being developed under the Barcelona process;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2003;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the necessary resources, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, in order to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

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